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MAJOR MILESTONES IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF SIGMA GAMMA EPSILON'S CORE TRADITIONS

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INTRODUCTION

The Society of Sigma Gamma Epsilon (SGE) is now more than 95 years old, making it one of the oldest, currently active geological societies in North America; the Geological Society of America was founded in 1888 and the Paleontological Society dates to 1908. Among discipline-specific honor societies in the sciences, it is also one of the oldest (Table 1). At the national level SGE is strong, with over seventy active chapters within college and university geoscience departments across the country (Table 2). The primary mission of Sigma Gamma Epsilon has been to recognize academic excellence and promote the professional growth of students of the Earth sciences. The various chapters also play an important role in contributing to the social life and collegiality of their home department and many chapters provide valuable outreach and service to their campus and community. This was very evident in the chapter reports presented at the Society's 41st National Convention (March 26-28, 2010). Table 3 provides basic information about all of SGE's national

conventions. As a student organization, the national conventions have served a vital role in shaping the Society's core traditions and most of the organizational innovations and "firsts" discussed below were enacted by student delegates at the national conventions.

It is my belief that membership in any professional organization is enhanced by a basic understanding and appreciation of the organization's history. A comprehensive history of Sigma Gamma Epsilon's first fifty years (1915-1960) was prepared by SGE member Patricia Daniel (1996a,b) and published in *The Compass*. More recently, Don Steinker (2002) provided a historical overview of the efforts to admit women into Sigma Gamma Epsilon. The purpose of this communication is to update and abstract some important milestones from these previous works, in celebration of *The Compass* becoming an electronic journal with this issue [v. 84(1)]. In addition, Tables 2 and 3 serve to update chronological listings of chapters and national conventions previously published in print-based issues of *The Compass* (Steinker, 1981; Merriam,

1991). My secondary goal is to begin collecting and synthesizing information for a comprehensive history of SGE's second

fifty years; our centennial in 2015 is fast approaching.

Table 1. Selective list of science and engineering honor societies. The number of active chapters is from the website of the Association of College Honor Societies (ACHS). Alpha Chi Sigma is a professional fraternity, not an academic honor society, but is listed here because of its influence on the founding of Sigma Gamma Epsilon.

Name	Discipline	Year Founded	Founding Campus	Active Chapters
Tau Beta Pi	Engineering	1885	Lehigh University	237
Sigma Xi	Scientific Research	1886	Cornell University	500+
Alpha Chi Sigma	Chemistry	1902	Univ. of Wisconsin	47
Pi Mu Epsilon	Mathematics	1914	Syracuse University	340+
Sigma Gamma Epsilon	Earth Sciences	1915	Univ. of Kansas	72
Phi Sigma	Biology	1915	Ohio State Univ.	21
Sigma Pi Sigma	Physics	1921	Davidson College	541
Chi Epsilon	Civil Engineering	1922	Univ. of Illinois	130
Beta Beta Beta	Biology	1922	Oklahoma City Univ.	406
Alpha Epsilon Delta	Premedicine	1926	Univ. of Alabama	179
Gamma Theta Upsilon	Geography	1928	Illinois State Univ.	283
Kappa Mu Epsilon	Mathematics	1931	Northwestern State	152
Alpha Sigma Mu	Metallurgy	1932	Michigan Tech	33

Table 2. Chapters of the Society of Sigma Gamma Epsilon (1915-2011). Chapter listed as active as of Fall 2011.

No.	Chapter	College/University	Location	Date of Charter	Active
1	Alpha	University of Kansas	Lawrence, KS	March 30, 1915	X
2	Beta	University of Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh, PA	December 13, 1915	
3	Gamma	University of Oklahoma	Norman, OK	May 15, 1916	
4	Delta	University of Nebraska	Lincoln, NE	March 3, 1917	
5	Epsilon	University of Missouri	Columbia, MO	March 22, 1919	
6	Zeta	University of Texas	Austin, TX	April 30, 1920	
7	Eta	Missouri U. of Science & Technology	Rolla, MO	January 8, 1921	X
8	Theta	Cornell University	Ithaca, NY	May 10, 1921	
9	Iota	University of Michigan	Ann Arbor, MI	June 4, 1921	X
10	Kappa	Pennsylvania State University	State College, PA	January 21, 1922	

11	Lambda	Colorado School of Mines	Golden, CO	January 21, 1922	
12	Mu	University of Utah	Salt Lake City, UT	April 18, 1922	
13	Nu	University of Minnesota	Minneapolis, MN	December 2, 1922	
14	Xi	Washington State University	Pullman, WA	May 3, 1924	
15	Omicron	University of California, Berkeley	Berkeley, CA	May 7, 1924	
16	Pi	University of Nevada, Reno	Reno, NV	December 18, 1924	
17	Rho	Indiana University	Bloomington, IN	January 15, 1926	X
18	Sigma	Ohio State University	Columbus, OH	April 26, 1928	X
19	Tau	George Washington University	Washington, D.C.	February 25, 1927	
20	Upsilon	West Virginia University	Morgantown, WV	May 27, 1929	X
21	Phi	Colgate University	Hamilton, NY	March 10, 1928	
22	Chi	University of Kentucky	Lexington, KY	November 10, 1928	X
23	Psi	University of Idaho	Moscow, ID	May 27, 1929	
24	Omega	University of Southern California	Los Angeles, CA	November 19, 1930	X
25	Alpha Alpha	University of North Carolina	Chapel Hill, NC	April 3, 1931	
26	Alpha Beta	Texas Tech University	Lubbock, TX	June 4, 1931	
27	Alpha Gamma	University of California, Los Angeles	Los Angeles, CA	January 19, 1932	
28	Alpha Delta	University of Cincinnati	Cincinnati, OH	March 26, 1932	
	Alpha Epsilon	<i>never installed</i>			
29	Alpha Zeta	Oregon State University	Corvallis, OR	June 2, 1934	
30	Alpha Eta	University of Colorado	Boulder, CO	June 1, 1934	
31	Alpha Theta	Miami University	Oxford, OH	November 23, 1934	
32	Alpha Iota	Augustana College	Rock Island, IL	June 3, 1938	
33	Alpha Kappa	Johns Hopkins University	Baltimore, MD	October 1, 1939	
34	Alpha Lambda	University of Texas at El Paso	El Paso, TX	March 16, 1940	X
35	Alpha Mu	Virginia Tech (VPI&SU)	Blacksburg, VA	April 3, 1942	X
36	Alpha Nu	Kansas State University	Manhattan, KS	April 26, 1947	
37	Alpha Xi	University of Chicago	Chicago, IL	June 10, 1947	
	Alpha Omicron	<i>never installed</i>			
	Alpha Pi	<i>never installed</i>			
38	Alpha Rho	Michigan State University	East Lansing, MI	June 5, 1947	
39	Alpha Sigma	Brigham Young University	Provo, UT	May 14, 1948	
40	Alpha Tau	Emory University	Atlanta, GA	May 29, 1948	
41	Alpha Upsilon	Mississippi State University	State College, MS	May 27, 1948	X
42	Alpha Phi	Purdue University	West Lafayette, IN	April 2, 1949	
43	Alpha Chi	University of Alabama	Tuscaloosa, AL	April 30, 1949	
44	Alpha Psi	University of Arkansas	Fayetteville, AR	May 12, 1949	X
45	Alpha Omega	Oklahoma State University	Stillwater, OK	May 13, 1949	
46	Beta Alpha	University of Washington	Seattle, WA	May 5, 1950	

47	Beta Beta	Upsala College	East Orange, NJ	April 29, 1950	
48	Beta Gamma	Utah State University	Logan, UT	May 22, 1950	
49	Beta Delta	University of Montana	Missoula, MT	May 26, 1950	
50	Beta Epsilon	Centenary College of Louisiana	Shreveport, LA	May 20, 1950	
51	Beta Zeta	University of North Dakota	Grand Forks, ND	October 21, 1950	X
52	Beta Eta	Tulane University	New Orleans, LA	November 1, 1950	
53	Beta Theta	University of Massachusetts	Amherst, MA	March 29, 1951	
54	Beta Iota	University of Houston	Houston, TX	May 23, 1951	
55	Beta Kappa	University of Virginia	Charlottesville, VA	May 22, 1952	
56	Beta Lambda	University of Tulsa	Tulsa, OK	May 16, 1953	
57	Beta Mu	University of New Mexico	Albuquerque, NM	May 18, 1953	
58	Beta Nu	University of Louisiana at Lafayette	Lafayette, LA	May 28, 1954	
59	Beta Xi	Louisiana Tech University	Ruston, LA	April 22, 1956	
60	Beta Omicron	University of Redlands	Redlands, CA	May 21, 1956	
61	Beta Pi	Cornell College	Mount Vernon, IA	February 7, 1957	X
62	Beta Rho	Michigan Technological University	Houghton, MI	January 10, 1957	
63	Beta Sigma	Rice University	Houston, TX	March 23, 1958	
64	Beta Tau	University of Arizona	Tucson, AZ	April 11, 1959	
65	Beta Upsilon	Bowling Green State University	Bowling Green, OH	April 26, 1959	X
66	Beta Phi	Southern Arkansas University	Magnolia, AR	March 9, 1960	
67	Beta Chi	Arizona State University	Tempe, AZ	April 1, 1960	
68	Beta Psi	University of Florida	Gainesville, FL	May 5, 1962	X
69	Beta Omega	University of Texas at Arlington	Arlington, TX	February 13, 1965	X
70	Gamma Alpha	University of Wisconsin - Superior	Superior, WI	November 13, 1965	
71	Gamma Beta	Wichita State University	Wichita, KS	December 16, 1966	
72	G. Gamma	University of Tennessee	Knoxville, TN	January 14, 1967	
73	Gamma Delta	Northern Arizona University	Flagstaff, AZ	April 1, 1968	
74	Gamma Epsilon	East Texas State University	Commerce, TX	March 22, 1968	
75	Gamma Zeta	Kent State University	Kent, OH	March 7, 1968	X
76	Gamma Eta	University of Toledo	Toledo, OH	October 24, 1968	
77	Gamma Theta	University of Iowa	Iowa City, IA	April 12, 1969	
78	Gamma Iota	University of Louisiana at Monroe	Monroe, LA	March 20, 1970	
79	Gamma Kappa	Albion College	Albion, MI	March 18, 1971	X
80	G. Lambda	Indiana State University	Terre Haute, IN	May 20, 1972	
81	Gamma Mu	University of Mississippi	University, MS	July 21, 1972	
82	Gamma Nu	University of Nevada, Las Vegas	Las Vegas, NV	November 11, 1972	
83	Gamma Xi	Texas A&M University	College Station, TX	April 20, 1973	
84	G. Omicron	University of New Orleans	New Orleans, LA	December 4, 1972	X
85	Gamma Pi	Chadron State University	Chadron, NE	October 12, 1973	

86	Gamma Rho	Boise State University	Boise, ID	January 18, 1974	X
87	Gamma Sigma	University of Northern Iowa	Cedar Falls, IA	February 14, 1974	X
88	Gamma Tau	New Mexico Highlands University	Las Vegas, NM	April 23, 1974	
89	Gamma Upsilon	West Texas State University	Canyon, TX	April 28, 1974	
90	Gamma Phi	Stephen F. Austin State University	Nacogdoches, TX	May 3, 1974	X
91	Gamma Chi	Eastern Illinois University	Charleston, IL	December 13, 1974	X
92	Gamma Psi	Western Carolina University	Cullowhee, NC	February 27, 1975	
93	Gamma Omega	New Mexico State University	Las Cruces, NM	April 4, 1975	
94	Delta Alpha	College of William & Mary	Williamsburg, VA	May 19, 1975	X
95	Delta Beta	Auburn University	Auburn, AL	May 29, 1975	X
96	Delta Gamma	Washington University	St. Louis, MO	September 30, 1975	
97	Delta Delta	Nicholls State University	Thibodaux, LA	May 4, 1976	
98	Delta Epsilon	Wright State University	Dayton, OH	May 14, 1976	X
99	Delta Zeta	Indiana University of Pennsylvania	Indiana, PA	November 18, 1976	
100	Delta Eta	University of South Alabama	Mobile, AL	November 18, 1976	X
101	Delta Theta	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute	Troy, NY	April 7, 1977	X
102	Delta Iota	Louisiana State University	Baton Rouge, LA	April 29, 1977	
103	Delta Kappa	Iowa State University	Ames, IA	January 20, 1978	
104	Delta Lambda	Ohio Wesleyan University	Delaware, OH	March 31, 1978	
105	Delta Mu	Hardin-Simmons University	Abilene, TX	April 7, 1978	
106	Delta Nu	Stony Brook University (SUNY)	Stony Brook, NY	May 28, 1978	
107	Delta Xi	Trinity University	San Antonio, TX	May 2, 1980	X
108	Delta Omicron	Hope College	Holland, MI	April 29, 1979	
109	Delta Pi	Waynesburg College	Waynesburg, PA	February 27, 1981	
110	Delta Rho	Sul Ross State University	Alpine, TX	April 30, 1981	X
111	Delta Sigma	University of Arkansas at Monticello	Monticello, AR	May 1, 1981	
112	Delta Tau	Slippery Rock U. of Pennsylvania	Slippery Rock, PA	November 5, 1981	X
113	Delta Upsilon	New Mexico Inst. of Mining & Tech.	Socorro, NM	May 8, 1981	
114	Delta Phi	Stanford University	Stanford, CA	February 23, 1982	
115	Delta Chi	Eastern Kentucky University	Richmond, KY	April 1, 1982	X
116	Delta Psi	Western Illinois University	Macomb, IL	April 30, 1982	X
117	Delta Omega	Missouri State University	Springfield, MO	December 3, 1982	
118	Epsilon Alpha	University of Mary Washington	Fredericksburg, VA	February 22, 1983	
119	Epsilon Beta	Ohio University	Athens, OH	February 25, 1983	X
120	Epsilon Gamma	Indiana U. Purdue U. Fort Wayne	Fort Wayne, IN	March 18, 1983	X
121	Epsilon Delta	Texas Christian University	Fort Worth, TX	April 5, 1983	
122	Epsilon Epsilon	Murray State University	Murray, KY	May 12, 1983	
123	Epsilon Zeta	Midwestern University	Wichita Falls, TX	November 11, 1983	X
124	Epsilon Eta	Radford University	Radford, VA	December 12, 1983	X

125	Epsilon Theta	Northwest Missouri State University	Maryville, MO	February 24, 1984	X
126	Epsilon Iota	DePauw University	Greencastle, IN	December 13, 1984	
127	Epsilon Kappa	Central Michigan University	Mount Pleasant, MI	May 4, 1984	
128	Epsilon Lambda	Rider College	Lawrenceville, NJ	October 4, 1984	
129	Epsilon Mu	Rutgers University at Newark	Newark, NJ	October 5, 1984	X
130	Epsilon Nu	University of Massachusetts Lowell	Lowell, MA	November 13, 1984	X
131	Epsilon Xi	Duke University	Durham, NC	February 7, 1985	
132	E. Omicron	George Mason University	Fairfax, VA	April 18, 1985	
133	Epsilon Pi	McNeese State University	Lake Charles, LA	October 10, 1985	
134	Epsilon Rho	Georgia State University	Atlanta, GA	October 17, 1985	
135	Epsilon Sigma	U. of North Carolina at Charlotte	Charlotte, NC	October 18, 1985	
136	Epsilon Tau	University of Maryland	College Park, MD	November 5, 1985	
137	Epsilon Upsilon	Brooklyn College (CUNY)	Brooklyn, NY	November 18, 1985	
138	Epsilon Phi	East Carolina University	Greenville, NC	November 20, 1985	X
139	Epsilon Chi	Old Dominion University	Norfolk, VA	February 26, 1986	
140	Epsilon Psi	University of Miami	Miami, FL	March 25, 1986	X
141	Epsilon Omega	University of Texas at San Antonio	San Antonio, TX	May 9, 1986	
142	Zeta Alpha	California University of Pennsylvania	California, PA	October 23, 1986	X
143	Zeta Beta	West Chester University	West Chester, PA	October 24, 1986	X
144	Zeta Gamma	Binghamton University (SUNY)	Binghamton, NY	May 7, 1987	
145	Zeta Delta	U. of Texas of the Permian Basin	Odessa, TX	May 13, 1987	
146	Zeta Epsilon	Edinboro University of Pennsylvania	Edinboro, PA	April 26, 1987	X
147	Zeta Zeta	College of Charleston	Charleston, SC	April 14, 1987	
148	Zeta Eta	Southern Illinois U. Carbondale	Carbondale, IL	May 11, 1989	
149	Zeta Theta	Fort Hays State University	Hays, KS	September 21, 1989	
150	Zeta Iota	Bridgewater State College	Bridgewater, MA	May 2, 1990	X
151	Zeta Kappa	University of Wisconsin Oshkosh	Oshkosh, WI	May 11, 1990	X
152	Zeta Lambda	Ashland University	Ashland, OH	June 7, 1990	
153	Zeta Mu	Syracuse University	Syracuse, NY	April 18, 1991	
154	Zeta Nu	Mesa State College	Grand Junction, CO	April 19, 1991	X
155	Zeta Xi	Monmouth College	Monmouth, IL	May 5, 1991	
156	Zeta Omicron	Millsaps College	Millsaps, MS	September 24, 1992	
157	Zeta Pi	Baylor University	Waco, TX	November 19, 1993	
158	Zeta Rho	SUNY – College at Oneonta	Oneonta, NY	December 3, 1993	X
159	Zeta Sigma	Western Michigan University	Kalamazoo, MI	December 10, 1993	
160	Zeta Tau	University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire	Eau Claire, WI	May 13, 1994	
161	Zeta Upsilon	Long Island U. , C.W. Post Campus	Brookville, NY	December 11, 1995	
162	Zeta Phi	University of Rochester	Rochester, NY	December 12, 1995	X
163	Zeta Chi	University at Buffalo (SUNY)	Buffalo, NY	April 30, 1996	

164	Zeta Psi	University of South Florida	Tampa, FL	May 3, 1996	
165	Zeta Omega	University of Georgia	Athens, GA	June 4, 1996	
166	Eta Alpha	University of Tennessee at Martin	Martin, TN	April 3, 1997	X
167	Eta Beta	State U. of New York at Potsdam	Potsdam, NY	May 4, 1998	X
168	Eta Gamma	Weber State University	Ogden, UT	December 8, 1998	X
169	Eta Delta	Montana State University	Bozeman, MT	February 5, 1999	
170	Eta Epsilon	Southern Utah University	Cedar City, UT	January 11, 2000	X
171	Eta Zeta	Central Washington University	Ellensburg, WA	January 31, 2001	X
172	Eta Eta	Texas A&M – Corpus Christi	Corpus Christi, TX	March 28, 2002	
173	Eta Theta	Florida Atlantic University	Boca Raton, FL	April 12, 2002	X
174	Eta Iota	Muskingum College	New Concord, OH	April 24, 2003	
175	Eta Kappa	University of Vermont	Burlington, VT	May 12, 2003	X
176	Eta Lambda	Susquehanna University	Selinsgrove, PA	March 15, 2004	X
177	Eta Mu	Juniata College	Huntington, PA	September 12, 2003	X
178	Eta Nu	James Madison University	Harrisonburg, VA	April 25, 2004	X
179	Eta Xi	St. Lawrence University	Canton, NY	March 31, 2006	X
180	Eta Omicron	University of Minnesota Duluth	Duluth, MN	May 5, 2006	
181	Eta Pi	Univ. of Wisconsin – Parkside	Kenosha, WI	May 8, 2006	X
182	Eta Rho	State U. of New York at Geneseo	Geneseo, NY	April 25, 2007	X
183	Eta Sigma	Middle Tennessee State University	Murfreesboro, TN	October 4, 2007	X
184	Eta Tau	University of Dayton	Dayton, OH	April 18, 2008	X
185	Eta Upsilon	University of the Pacific	Stockton, CA	May 1, 2009	X
186	Eta Phi	Northern Illinois University	DeKalb, IL	April 10, 2009	X
187	Eta Chi	SUNY – The College at Brockport	Brockport, NY	May 11, 2009	X
188	Eta Psi	Keene State College	Keene, NH	November 13, 2009	X
189	Eta Omega	U. of Wisconsin – Whitewater	Whitewater, WI	February 9, 2011	X
190	Theta Alpha	Adrian College	Adrian, MI	March 22, 2011	X

Table 3. Chronological list of the national conventions of Sigma Gamma Epsilon. Data on the number of delegates are from the various convention reports published in *The Compass*.

No.	Location	Dates	Host Chapter(s)	No. of Delegates	Report in <i>The Compass</i>	Field Trip
1	Lawrence, KS	October 8, 1915	Alpha	1	na	none
2	Kansas City, MO	April ?, 1918	na	UNK	na	none
3	Columbia, MO	April 2-3, 1920	Epsilon	UNK	v. 1(1), 1920	none
4	Pittsburgh, PA	April 7-8, 1922	Beta	11	v. 3 (1), 1922, p. 1-8	auto tour of Pittsburgh

5	Golden, CO	April 18-19, 1924	Lambda	UNK	v. 4(4), 1924, p. 1-12	scenic drive to Lookout Mtn.
6	Ann Arbor, MI	April 2-3, 1926	Iota	11	v. 6(4), 1926, p. 71-88	canceled due to snowstorm
7	Lincoln, NE	April 6-7, 1928	Delta	14	v. 8(4), 1928, p. 85-109	none
8	Norman, OK	April 4-5, 1930	Gamma	20	v. 10(4), 1930, p. 97-137	fossil collecting /Arbuckle Mtns
9	State College, PA	April 1-2, 1932	Kappa	24	v. 12(4), 1932, p. 155-180	geology of the State College area
10	Los Angeles, CA	December 27-28, 1935	Omega & Alpha Gamma	24	v. 16(2), 1936, p. 43-70	geology of the Los Angeles basin
11	Austin, TX	December 30-31, 1937	Zeta	26	v. 18(2), 1938, p. 84-111	oil fields of Austin area
12	Salt Lake City, UT	March 21-23, 1940	Mu	27	v. 20(4), 1940, p. 235-264	Bingham Canyon copper mine
13	Columbus, OH	April 9-11, 1942	Sigma	31	v. 22(4), 1942, p. 243-262	Shawnee Pottery Company
14	St. Louis, MO	October 23-25, 1947	na	27	v. 25(1), 1947, p. 1-86	Anheuser-Bush brewery
15	Denver, CO	October 20-22, 1949	na	32	v. 27(1), 1949, p. 13-102	Canon City pegmatite
16	Hot Springs, AR	December 6-7, 1951	Alpha Psi	37	v. 29(2), 1952, p. 124-226	geology of the Hot Springs area
17	Salt Lake City, UT	October 29-31, 1953	Mu, Alpha Sigma, & Beta Gamma	46	v. 31(2), 1954, p. 97-133	geology of the Wasatch Mtns
18	New Orleans, LA	November 3-5, 1955	Beta Eta	42	v. 33(2), 1956, p. 122-156	oil fields of south Louisiana
19	Pittsburgh, PA	April 17-19, 1958	na	37	v. 36(1), 1958, p. 58-62	US Steel Research Labs
20	Houston, TX	April 7-9, 1960	Beta Iota	48	v. 37(4), 1960, p. 324-328	Hockley salt dome & mine
21	Albuquerque, NM	April 26-28, 1962	Beta Mu	UNK	never published	unknown
22	Lawrence, KS	March 30-April 1, 1965	Alpha	26	v. 43(1), 1965, p. 71-72	geology along Kansas turnpike
23	Cincinnati, OH	April 11-13, 1968	Alpha Delta & Alpha Theta	19	v. 47(1), 1969, p. 36-49	fossils of the Cincinnati area
24	Norman, OK	December 3-5, 1970	Gamma	13	v. 49(1), 1971, p. 4-5	geology of the Wichita Mtns
25	Arlington, TX	April 26-28, 1973	Beta Omega	18	v. 51(1), 1973, p. 4-5	stratigraphy of Forth Worth area
26	Las Vegas, NV	October 16-18, 1975	Gamma Nu	34	v. 53(3), 1976, p. 107-120	Cedar Breaks N.M. to SLC
27	Wichita, KS	April 13-15, 1978	Gamma Beta	26	v. 56(1), 1978, p. 1-16	stratigraphy of the Wichita area
28	Knoxville, TN	November 13-15, 1980	Gamma Gamma	29	v. 58(2), 1981, p. 27-42	geology of eastern Tennessee
29	New Orleans, LA	October 14-16, 1982	Beta Eta & Delta Delta	39	v. 60(2), 1983, p. 39-48	geology of coastal Louisiana
30	Troy, NY	October 7-9, 1984	Delta Theta	30	v. 63(1), 1985, p. 18-23	geologic record of Iapetus
31	San Antonio, TX	November 13-15, 1986	Delta Xi	40	v. 64(2), 1987, p. 103-125	Llano uplift of central Texas
32	Fayetteville, AR	October 27-29, 1988	Alpha Psi	19	v. 68(1), 1990, p. 43-57	stratigraphy of nw Arkansas
33	Lawrence, KS	September 20-23, 1990	Alpha	27	v. 69(3), 1992, p. 272-293	geology along Kansas turnpike
34	Greenville, NC	October 8-11, 1992	Epsilon Phi	17	v. 70(2), 1993, p. 69-85	Coastal Plain phosphate mines

35	Pullman, WA	March 31-April 2, 1995	Xi	UNK	never published	Channeled Scablands
36	Oneonta, NY	September 19-21, 1997	Zeta Rho	20	v. 75(1), 1999, p. 8-28	glaciated karst of central NY
37	Forth Worth, TX	March 10-12, 2000	Epsilon Delta	14	v. 76(1), 2001, p. 1-17.	geology of the Arbuckle Mtns
38	Cedar City, UT	October 11-13, 2002	Eta Epsilon	16	v. 77(1), 2002, p. 5-22	Zion N.P.
39	Boca Raton, FL	April 15-17, 2005	Eta Theta	14	v. 79(3), 2005, p. 73-88	coastal geology of Jupiter Is. Area
40	Cedar Falls, IA	October 19-21, 2007	Gamma Sigma	12	v.82(1), 2009, p. 1-24	geology of northeastern Iowa
41	Bloomington, IN	March 26-28, 2010	Rho	9	v. 83, in preparation	Indiana limestone & karst features

MILESTONES

1915-Founding of Sigma Gamma Epsilon:

During the spring of 1915, four mining engineering students (Glenn L. Allen, Hugh R. Brown, Clark B. Carpenter, and Walter E. Rohrer) at the University of Kansas met with Associate Professor William H. Twenhofel (1875-1957) of the Department of Geology to discuss the formation of a new professional fraternity for mining and geology students (Twenhofel, 1948; Daniels, 1996a). Their goal was to create an organization similar to the Alpha Chi Sigma Fraternity for chemistry and chemical engineering students (Table 1). March 30, 1915, is “Founders’ Day” for SGE. On this day, the charter members met with Twenhofel in his home and formalized the Society’s name, selected a motto (*Sunnomoi Gen Ereunotes* – ‘Companions Searching the Earth’), and organized committees to draft by-laws, develop an initiation ritual, design an insignia, and organize finances (Daniels, 1996a).

1915-Sigma Gamma Epsilon Goes National: The founding of SGE was announced in *Science* (June 11, 1915, p. 850)

with a proposal to establish chapters in other geology and mining departments in the United States and Canada. Students in the School of Mines at the University of Pittsburgh were the first to answer the call (Twenhofel, 1948; Daniels, 1996a). Although SGE’s constitution anticipated the possibility of an international organization, to date there have been no requests from student groups in Canada to affiliate with Sigma Gamma Epsilon.

1915-First National Convention: The first national convention was held in Lawrence, Kansas, on October 8, 1915. The primary business was to elect officers to the National Council and to act on Pittsburgh’s request to affiliate with SGE. Professor Twenhofel became the first National President and later traveled to Pittsburgh to install the Beta chapter on December, 13, 1915 (Daniel, 1996a). Article X, section 1, of SGE’s constitution and by-laws states “the ultimate legislative authority of this Society shall be vested in a National Convention [*The Compass*, v. 79(4), p. 110]. Thus, national/biennial conventions, held every two to two-and-half years, have become the major means whereby the student members craft the policies and shape the traditions of

their Society. The majority of the 41 past conventions have been convened on the campus of a hosting chapter of the Society (Table 3). A typical agenda includes chapter reports and committee meetings on Friday afternoon and evening, a geologic field trip on Saturday, and final committee reports and elections on Sunday morning. Over the years, the Alpha Chapter (University of Kansas) has hosted three national conventions (1st, 22nd, and 33rd), more than any other chapter (Table 3). Five national conventions (11th, 20th, 25th, 31st, and 37th) have been held in Texas, more than any other state.

1920-First Issue of *The Compass*: Student delegates to the 3rd National Convention (1920), hosted by Epsilon Chapter (University of Missouri), established the Society's publication and elected the first National Editor, William A. Tarr (1881-1939), Professor of Geology at the University of Missouri. Tarr served in that capacity until his death in 1939 (Schram, 1939). The first issue of *The Compass*, containing chapter news and alumni updates, was published and distributed in May, 1920 (Daniel, 1996a).

1930-First Convention Field Trip: Members of the Gamma Chapter (University of Oklahoma) hosted the 8th National Convention (April 4-5, 1930) and led a fossil-collecting trip to the Arbuckle Mountains on April 5 (Decker, 1930a), thus beginning the tradition of having a geological field trip as part of the convention

activities (Table 3). Photographs from the trip, complete with humorous captions (Daniel, 1996a), were published in the May 1930 issue of *The Compass* [v. 10(4), 1930]. The Iota Chapter at the University of Michigan would have gained this "first" when they hosted the 6th National Convention in April 1926 had a snowstorm not led to cancellation of their planned field trip to examine glacial deposits in the Ann Arbor area (Tarr, 1926).

1931-First Chapter Sponsored Issue of *The Compass*: Student delegates to the 8th National Convention (1930) instructed the National Editor to organize chapter-sponsored issues of *The Compass* that would include articles by chapter members and faculty, as well as a history of the sponsoring geoscience department and/or SGE Chapter. A drawing was held to determine which chapter would prepare the first such issue, which the Rho Chapter (Indiana University) won (Decker, 1930b). Their inaugural issue was published as volume 11, number 2, in 1931. This is a great tradition and has resulted in some of the best issues of *The Compass* during its long history. Fifty-eight different chapters have sponsored one or more issues over the years and the Alpha Chapter (University of Kansas) has sponsored 11, more than any other chapter. The Gamma Zeta Chapter at Kent State University is close behind with 8 sponsored issues. The most-recent chapter-sponsored issue was submitted by the Eta Beta Chapter (SUNY Potsdam) and published as volume 80, number 4, in 2007.

1940-Twenty-Fifth Anniversary: SGE celebrated its Silver Anniversary at the 12th National Convention (March 21-23, 1940), hosted by the Mu Chapter at the University of Utah (Henderson, 1940). The convention field trip included a tour of the Bingham Canyon open-pit copper mine and examined the geology of the Wasatch Mountains near Salt Lake City. Thirty-four chapters had been installed by this time.

1943-1946: Inactivity During World War II: Publication of *The Compass*, convening of National Conventions, and installation of new chapters were suspended during the height of World War II. Most chapters were also inactive during this time. Many colleges and universities had accelerated programs of study, including Saturday classes, so the men could finish their degrees before leaving for military service. Many SGE members volunteered and the 1941-1943 issues of *The Compass* were filled with reports of who was off to war (Daniels, 1996b).

1948-First W.A. Tarr Awards: Delegates to the 14th National Convention (1947), held in St. Louis, Missouri, established the *W.A. Tarr Award* in honor of *The Compass*' long-time editor, William Arthur Tarr (1881-1939) (Carpenter, 1947). Under Tarr's editorship, *The Compass* evolved from a four-page newsletter to one of the leading scientific fraternity journals of the time (Daniel, 1996b). The award, given annually by each active chapter, recognizes outstanding scholarship and service by a

graduating senior. The first awards were made by active chapters in the Spring of 1948 (Daniel, 1996b). The *W.A. Tarr Award* is one of two named awards given annually by SGE; the other is the *Austin A. Sartin Award* established in 1992.

1960-Largest National Convention: The 20th National Convention (1960) in Houston, Texas, hosted by the Beta Iota Chapter (University of Houston), was the largest in the Society's history; 48 chapters sent delegates (Table 3). The convention delegates had a choice of a field trip to the Hockley salt dome and mine or a tour of the Humble Oil Research Laboratories [*The Compass*, v. 37(4), 1960, p. 324-330].

1965-Golden Anniversary: Sigma Gamma Epsilon celebrated its 50th anniversary at the 22nd National Convention (March 30-April 1, 1965), hosted by the Alpha Chapter in Lawrence, Kansas (Buchwald, 1965). Sixty-nine chapters had been installed by this time. A proposed constitutional amendment allowing woman to join SGE was narrowly defeated on a 12 to 14 vote of the delegates (Daniel, 1996b; Steinker, 2002).

1966-Women Become Eligible for Membership: In a November 1, 1966, letter from National President Hubert C. Skinner (1930-2009), the active chapters of Sigma Gamma Epsilon were notified that women were eligible for membership as of that date (Skinner, 1967a). This change in the membership policy was based on the results of a referendum conducted earlier in the year

in which 85 % of the voting chapters approved a change in the constitution to allow women members. The first documented report of the initiation female students is a Chapter News article in the January 1967 issue of the *The Compass* [v. 44(2), 1967, p. 118]. Here the Rho Chapter at Indiana University listed the names of 19 new members initiated on November 16, 1966, including Gail L. Avans, Deborah J. DeWolf, Susan E. Glass, Stephanie V. Hrabar, and Vicki M. Torpy. The initiation ceremony took place in a cave near the campus and was followed by a chapter banquet at a nearby motel. As of the Fall of 1966, the slow evolutionary change from a male professional fraternity to an academic honor society, open to any geoscience student who meets the eligibility requirements, was finally complete. In addition to being elected to SGE during their student days, many female geoscience faculty have served the Society as chapter advisors and national officers, including National President – Dr. Erika Elswick (Indiana University), our current National President, became the Society’s first female president when she was elected by the student delegates to the 41st National Convention in March 2010.

1967-National Office Moves to Norman, Oklahoma: Although the 22nd National Convention served primarily to celebrate SGE’s 50th anniversary, later reports from the convention indicated all was not well at the national level. There had been discussion of a “breakdown in communications which

had occurred on all levels within the Society” and a “need to develop a better financial situation on the national level” (Buchwald, 1965, p. 71). In 1967, National President Hubert C. Skinner announced that Dr. Charles J. (Charlie) Mankin, Professor of Geology at the University of Oklahoma and Director of the Oklahoma Geological Survey, had been appointed the new National Secretary-Treasurer (Skinner, 1967b). Within a few years Dr. Mankin had hired Ms Betty Bellis to run the day-to-day operations and to serve as secretary to the National Council. For the next 42 years (1967-2009) Charlie and Betty would be the collective face of the Society at the national level, a remarkable feat of professional volunteerism, especially considering Charlie was initially asked to serve on a “temporary” basis (Mankin, pers. com.). Sigma Gamma Epsilon also owes a significant debt of gratitude to the Oklahoma Geological Survey, which generously provided the office space for SGE’s national operations for 30 years or so – Betty Bellis ran the national office out of her home in Norman for about the first ten years of Charlie’s tenure as National Secretary-Treasurer.

1976- Installation of the 100th Chapter: On November 18, 1976, the Delta Eta Chapter was installed at the University of South Alabama, becoming the 100th chapter of SGE. Sigma Gamma Epsilon saw a rapid growth in membership and petitions for new chapters associated with the “oil boom” of the 1970s – and the associated enrollment boom in geoscience departments across the

country. Unfortunately, many of the chapters installed during this time became inactive during the “oil bust” of the early 1980s. As of the Fall of 2011, a total of 190 geoscience departments have been granted a charter for a chapter of SGE (Table 2). However, only about 70 of those departments currently host an active chapter of the Society.

1986-Affiliation with the Geological Society of America: The student delegates at the 31st National Convention (1986) in San Antonio, TX, approved a formal agreement between the Society and GSA that designates SGE as an Affiliated Society of GSA (now termed an Associated Society) (Anonymous, 1987), with the purpose to “partner in pursuit of mutual goals to advance the geosciences, enhance the professional growth of members, and promote the geosciences in service to humanity” (GSA). A major benefit of this association is that SGE is allowed to sponsor technical sessions and hold business meetings as part of the formal program at the annual meeting of GSA.

1989-First SGE Poster Session at GSA: The student delegates at the 32nd National Convention (1988) proposed the Society sponsor a student-research symposium and the first SGE poster session was held on November 7, 1989, in St. Louis, MO, at that year’s annual meeting of the Geological Society of America (Sartin, 1990). National President Austin A. Sartin organized the event and 9 student-authored posters were presented at the inaugural session; the

abstracts were published in both *The Compass* [v. 67(2), 1990, p. 114-122] and *Geological Society of America Abstracts with Programs* [v. 21(7), 1989, p. A160-A162]. This tradition has become the principal way that SGE serves the broader geoscience community at the national level. SGE’s poster session, now focusing strictly on undergraduate research in the geosciences and open to all students, has become a staple of the GSA annual meetings.

1990-Seventy-Fifth Anniversary: SGE celebrated its 75th anniversary at the 33rd National Convention (September 20-23, 1990) (Anonymous, 1992). As with the 50th anniversary, delegates at an earlier convention had accepted an invitation from the Alpha Chapter to return to Lawrence, and the campus of the University of Kansas, for this important milestone. Delegates from 27 chapters attended. The convention field trip examined the geology along the Kansas Turnpike near Lawrence (Merriam, 1990). By the fall of 1990, 152 chapters had been chartered and installed.

1993-First Austin A. Sartin Award: The student delegates to the 34th National Convention (1992) voted to name the “Best Poster” award given at the annual GSA poster sessions in honor of Dr. Austin A. Sartin (Anonymous, 1993). Dr. Sartin (1936-1993) had been a long-time supporter of Sigma Gamma Epsilon, having served as a chapter advisor, Regional Vice President, and National President (1986-1990) (Sartin, 1985; Barrett and Sharp, 1995). As noted

above, Dr. Sartin also had been instrumental in launching SGE's first poster session in 1989. Marilyn Kressel (Sigma Chapter, Ohio State University) and Baiying Guo (Epsilon Upsilon Chapter, Brooklyn College) were awarded the inaugural *Austin A. Sartin Awards* at the 1993 GSA Annual Meeting in Boston, MA.; their abstracts were published in *The Compass* [v. 70(4), 1993, p. 146-147]. The *Austin A. Sartin Award* is one of two named awards given annually by the Society, the other being the *W.A. Tarr Award* established in 1947.

2005-Female Geoscientist Added to the Ritual: Student delegates to the 39th National Convention (2005) voted to add the voice and perspective of a prominent female geoscientist, Mary Anning (1799-1847), to the initiation ritual (Anonymous, 2005). Discussions related to this initiative began as early as the 36th National Convention (1997) (Steinker, 2002). Final edits were made to the text of the ritual and approved at the 40th National Convention (2007). Ms Betty Bellis oversaw the printing of the new ritual, dated July 2008, and it was distributed to chapters in time for fall initiations in 2008.

2009-National Office Moves to Cedar Falls, Iowa: Following the retirements of Dr. Charlie Mankin and Ms Betty Bellis from the Oklahoma Geological Survey, the National Council appointed Dr. James C. (Jim) Walters, University of Northern Iowa, to take over as the new National Secretary-Treasurer, effective September 1, 2009. The Department of Earth Science at the

University of Northern Iowa, located in Cedar Falls, is now hosting SGE's national operations. This important transition has gone relatively smoothly, thanks largely to the hard work of Jim and Ms Paula Even, SGE's new paid administrative assistant.

2010-Most-Recent National Convention: The Rho Chapter at Indiana University hosted the Society's 41st National Convention (March 26-28, 2010) on their campus in Bloomington. It was a very productive convention and included a field trip to explore outcrops of world-famous Indiana limestone and related karst features. Unfortunately, this was one of the smallest national conventions in our history as only 9 chapters sent delegates and alternates (Table 3). The 42nd National Convention is scheduled for the fall of 2012.

2011-SGE's Newest Chapter is Installed: The Theta Alpha Chapter was installed at Adrian College (Adrian, MI) on March 22, 2011. Theta Alpha is number 190 on the all-time chapter list and the newest of the approximately 70 active chapters of Sigma Gamma Epsilon (Table 2).

2012-The Compass becomes an e-Journal: Beginning with this issue, v. 84, number 1, *The Compass* will begin a new phase in its long history. Over the years the journal has struggled to maintain a regular and timely publication cycle (Ford, 2009). This problem was, in part, due to a paucity of manuscript submissions, especially from student members of the Society. This created a

viscous cycle, which in the age of instant communication made the situation unsustainable. Beginning with discussions at the 40th National Convention (2007) (Anonymous, 2009) and culminating at the recent 41st National Convention (2010), the student delegates approved an initiative whereby *The Compass* would be published online as an electronic journal. Dr. Larry Davis (College of Saint Benedict/Saint John's University) was elected National Editor at the 41st National Convention and has been working steadily since the Spring of 2010 to make this a reality. The fact that you are reading this summary of SGE's milestones means that he has succeeded.

2015-Sigma Gamma Epsilon's Centennial Celebration! Details to follow.

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